



ALL-STAR SQUADRON

The

RACE RIOTS IN DETROIT

Saturday, Feb. 28, 1942

EXTRA!
JUSTICE SOCIETY
ILLU BY
JOE STANTON
AND BOB LAYTON!



**VIOLENCE FLARES AS NEGROES ATTEMPT
MOVE INTO SOJOURNER TRUTH
HOUSING PROJECT**



THE NEW

**THERE'S NO
STOPPING
US NOW.**

**ROY THOMAS,
RICHARD HOWELL
& BILL COLLINS**

IT HAD TO HAPPEN!
AMALGAM MAN
VS.
REAL AMERICAN
**-- WHILE A WORLD
WAITS BREATHLESS!!**

**ANDREWS
BRADFORD**

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AUTHORITY

1942—a world at war! And against the forces of Axis darkness, the mightiest heroes of Earth-Two have banded together, under direct orders of the President, as the

THAT
SHE BLOWS
LANTERN--
DETROIT!

HARDLY SEEMS
POSSIBLE WE MIGHT BE
FLYING INTO A WAR
ZONE, DOES IT?

ALL-STAR SQUADRON™

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE PHANTOM EMPIRE!

ROY THOMAS
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RICHARD HOWELL
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BILL COLLINS
INKER
CODY
LETTERER
GENE D'ANGELO
COLORIST

ACTUALLY,
HAWK, IT'S NOT
THAT HARD TO
BELIEVE--

"Hitler Supports Housing Discrimination!"
--Placard seen at a Detroit
housing demonstration in 1942.

6-1942

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DC Comics Inc. A Warner Communications Company

—IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU HAPPEN TO LOOK.*

FROM STATE OF WAR: MICHIGAN IN WORLD WAR TWO BY ALAN CLIVE



THAT'S THE WAY THE HISTORY BOOKS TELL IT, ON OUR WORLD.

ON EARTH-TWO, HOWEVER, HAWKMAN AND GREEN LANTERN ARE NOT THE ONLY ADDED ELEMENT TO THIS CRESCENDING RACE RIOT.*

AWH? WHO'S THE GUY IN THE RED-WHITE-AND-BLUE?

IT'S NOT AMAZING—MAN, AND HE'S THE ONLY DETROIT MASKED HERO I KNOW OF.



*WHICH BEGAN TO UNFOLD LAST ISSUE.

HOLD IT, FELLA! DON'T CARE MUCH FOR STEEL WHIPS MYSELF—BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN LET YOU BRAIN HIM WITH THAT CLUB.



TAKES MORE THAN A FANCY SUIT TO MAKE A MAN A HERO, OLD BUDDY.



—AND SOMEHOW, I'M ALREADY STARTING TO HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT THAT ONE!

WE'D BETTER BREAK UP THIS LITTLE FREE-FOR-ALL, BEFORE SOMEBODY GETS HURT.



AH! REINFORCEMENTS—FROM THE JUSTICE SOCIETY, NO LESS!

MY THANKS, HAWKMAN!



A HURLING PROJECTILE,
HOWEVER, DOES NOT MISS
ITS HUMAN TARGET--



GOT HIM! A LUCKY SHOT--
SINCE WHOEVER THREW
THAT PROBABLY DIDN'T
KNOW THAT WOOD IS
JUST ABOUT THE
ONLY THING THE
LANTERN'S POWER
RING CAN'T
HANDLE.



CAN'T GET THROUGH TO 'EM!
WE'LL HAVE TO OPEN FIRE!



TEAR GAS!



...BUT THE UGLINESS
REMAINS.



A REAL MESS, HUH, HAWK? WE TRIED NOT TO TAKE
SIDES, BUT I DOUBT IF THOSE NEGROES SAW IT THAT
WAY--AND I CAN'T SAY I BLAME THEM.





OH? AND I SUPPOSE YOU'D MARRY ONE OF THEM--HAVE A DAUGHTER WHO'S COLORED?

MISTER, IF I EVER HAVE A DAUGHTER, I WON'T CARE WHETHER SHE'S BLACK, WHITE, OR GREEN...

...AS LONG AS SHE DOESN'T START DATING SOMEBODY LIKE YOU!



I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THIS! I KNOW YOU TWO WERE IN THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING--CONFERING WITH A BLEEDING-HEART LIBERAL LIKE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, NO DOUBT.

YOUR SOURCES ARE BETTER THAN YOUR BIOLOGY. BY THE WAY, DO YOU HAVE A NAME?

I AM CALLED REAL AMERICAN!

NOT BY ME.



LISTEN--THOSE PEOPLE PAID RENT ON THESE HOMES, AND THEY'RE ENTITLED TO MOVE INTO THEM.

YOUR BIGOTED RACIAL VIEWS ARE YOUR OWN PROBLEM, BUT YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO--

YOU SADDEN ME, HAWKMAN-- BOTH OF YOU--



--TAKING SIDES AGAINST YOUR WHITE BROTHERS--AND FOR WHAT? YOU SAW HOW THOSE BLACKS ATTACKED YOU-- LIKE ANIMALS!

WAKE UP, MY FRIENDS! JOIN WITH US IN KEEPING AMERICA SAFE AND PURE!

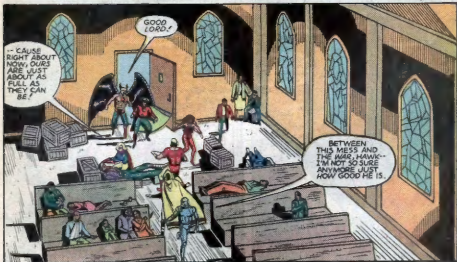
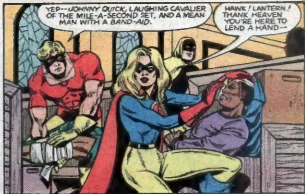
IT'S THE MOST NOBLE OF TASKS--AS YOU ARE THE MOST NOBLE OF MEN!

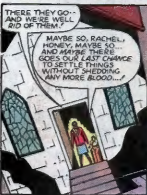
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU--!

WAIT, LANTERN! THE MAN'S GOT A RIGHT TO HAVE HIS SAY, TOO, DOESN'T HE?

IT'S ONLY FAIR, AFTER ALL.







FINE. LET'S SEE--
HOW TO BRING YOU
AND HAWKMAN
UP TO DATE??

THE NEWS OUGHT TO BE
ON ABOUT NOW, IF WE
JUST HAD A RADIO--!

COMING UP,
MADAM CHAIRMAN--
ONE FREE-STANDING
STATIC-FREE RADIO
TOWER!

WHA--? IF
I LIVE TO BE A
HUNDRED, ALAN, I
SWEAR I'M NEVER
GOING TO FIGURE
OUT WHAT ALL THAT
RANG OF YOURS
CAN DO!

--9:30 THIS
MORNING, GROUPS OF
ANGRY WHITES AND
NEGROES HAVE BEEN
BUTTING HEADS HEAVILY
OVER THE LATTER'S
ATTEMPTS TO MOVE
INTO THE SOJOURNER
TRUTH HOMES ON
DETROIT'S NORTHEAST
SIDE.

CONSIDERING I'VE HAD IT FOR
LESS THAN TWO YEARS, BELLE,
YOU MIGHT STILL BEAT ME TO IT!
LISTEN.

NAMED AFTER A NEGRO ABOLITIONIST AND POETESS
WHO ONCE RESIDED IN BATTLE CREEK, THE NEGRO
OCCUPANCY OF THESE HOMES HAS BEEN OPPOSED
BY VARIOUS WHITE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS--

--AND EVEN BY SOME MIDDLE-CLASS
NEGROES RESIDING IN NEARBY COMANT
GARDENS, EVIDENTLY WORRYING ABOUT
PROPERTY VALUES.



IN THE VOTING SO FAR, MORE
THAN A DOZEN PEOPLE HAVE
BEEN INJURED, AND DOZENS
OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
ARRESTED.

ALREADY MEMBERS OF THE
NEGRO COMMUNITY ARE
ACCUSING THE MAYOR OF
TAKING INSUFFICIENT ACTION
TO DISPERSE THE HOSTILE
WHITES...

YEAH,
YOU
COULD
SAY
THAT.

AND WE
KNOW WHAT
COLOR THEY
WERE, TOO.

ONE YOUNG NEGRO INTER-
VIEWED PUT IT THIS WAY: "THE
ARMY IS GOING TO TAKE ME TO
FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY, BUT
I'D AS LIEF FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY
RIGHT HERE."

A-MEN.



THE POLICE CARTED WILL EVERETT
AND HIS FATHER OFF TO JAIL--WOULDN'T
EVEN RELEASE HIM INTO OUR CUSTODY.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A
LONG TIME--I'VE BEEN ALMOST
HAPPY THAT THE ONLY "SKIN"
I EVER SPORT IS MADE OF
SYNTHETIC RUBBER.

YES I DO! THERE ARE GOOD PEOPLE AROUND...

SURE--BUT THEY'RE ALL STAYING
HOME! THAT'S HOW A CRUDEHEAD
LIKE HITLER TOOK OVER GERMANY!

I WON'T BELIEVE
THAT, JOHNNY--NOT
TILL I'M FORCED TO.
THERE ARE TOO MANY
GOOD PEOPLE AROUND
FOR THAT KIND OF
THING TO HAPPEN
HERE.

THAT ISN'T ALL AMERICANS, THOUGH...
WHITE OR BLACK, IT ISN'T EVEN
EVERYBODY IN ONE CITY...

DO YOU REALLY
BELIEVE IT'LL BE
BETTER SOMEWHERE
ELSE, BELLE?

OH,
YEAH?

AND I SUPPOSE THAT'S
A BUNCH OF EM DOWN
THERE--SCREAMING LIKE
BIOTED BANISHES IN
FRONT OF THE POLICE
STATION WHERE WILL'S
BOOKED?

GOOD
LORD!

AND WHERE
AN ANGRY
MOB GOES,
THIS EPOCH-
MARKING DAY
IN DETROIT,
MICHIGAN--

--CAN THE SELF-STYLED "REAL AMERICAN" BE FAR BEHIND?

HEAR ME, MY FELLOW CITIZENS!
WE ALL KNOW FOR A FACT THAT
THE GAUDILY-COSTUMED NEGRO
CALLED AMAZING-MAN CALLED
A WHITE MAN IN THIS MORNING'S
RIOTING!

THE QUESTION
IS--WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO
ABOUT IT?

LET THE COPS TURN
HIM OVER TO US--I'VE
KNOW HOW TO TREAT
HIS KIND!

YOU BETTER
BELIEVE IT!

WHAT'S THAT MADMAN TALKING ABOUT? BAD AS THINGS GOT THIS MORNING, NOBODY DIED--OR WE'D HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT ON THAT BROADCAST.

MAYBE IT'S GOT TO DO WITH MY MAGIC RING, JOHNNY. HIS VOICE NEVER GOT TO ME--BUT IT DID TO HAWKMAN.

RIGHT! BUT REMEMBER--EVEN WE STARTED TO SMELL HIS LINE OF MALARKEY WHEN WE GOT CLOSE TO HIM.

SO HOW COME WE'RE ~~WARRING~~ NOW? I GET A TINGLE, BUT--

HOLD IT! OVER THERE--ON THAT HILL--!

I SEE IT, ROB.

SOME OF THOSE PHANTOM EMPIRE HOODS--AND THEIR MASKED LEADER--GATHERED TO WATCH FROM AFAR--

"--WITHOUT GETTING THEIR HANDS DIRTY!"

RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THE MORE IMMEDIATE THREAT.

NOW YOU'RE CATCHING ON, CITIZENS! IF NEGROES WON'T OBEY OUR LAWS, SEND THEM BACK TO AFRICA!

SELF-AMAZING-MAN DIES HERE--TO PAY FOR THE COLD-BLOODED MURDER HE COMMITTED THIS VERY DAY!

CAPTAIN! THAT "REAL AMERICAN" GUY TALKED A GOOD SHOW BEFORE ABOUT "PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY"--BUT NOW HE'S REALLY GETTIN' 'EM WORKED UP OUT THERE!

TRUST US, OFFICER--YOU DON'T WANT TO!

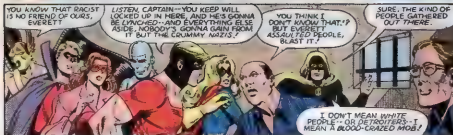
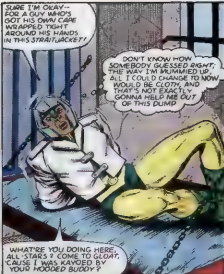
YOU'RE TELLING ME?? CAN'T HEAR MUCH OF WHAT HE SAYS VERY CLEAR, BUT--

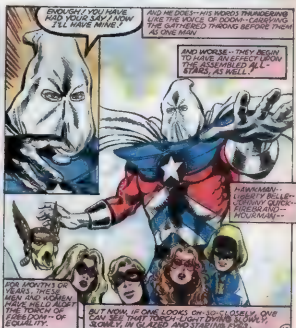
HUH?

HOLY COW! IT'S THE JUSTICE SOCIETY!

HEMM. AFTER THREE WHOLE MONTHS, YOU'D THINK SOMEBODY'D GET OUR NAME RIGHT THE FIRST TIME!

CAPTAIN--WE'RE THE ALL-STAR SOCIETY--HERE TO SEE WILL EVERETT--





WHILE, WITHIN THE CELLS WHERE THOSE BOOMING TONES RANG--

GOD! WRAPPED UP LIKE A HOG FOR SLAUGHTER-- NOW THIS?

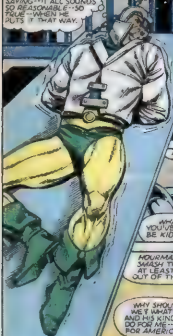
BUT--WHAT HE'S SAYING--IT ALL SOUNDS SO REASONABLE--SO TRUE--WHEN HE PUTS IT THAT WAY.

MAYBE I DID KILL SOMEBODY, IN ALL THAT RIOTING--AND NEVER EVEN KNEW IT! I JUST DON'T KNOW ANYMORE--!

HEY, THAT HOODED GUY'S GOT A POINT YOU KNOW!

SURE! AFTER ALL-- THEY'RE THE REAL AMER.CANS--NOT US!

WILL AND ME-- WE SHOULD'VE STAYED WHERE WE BELONGED--IN PARADISE VALLEY. NOW--IT'S TOO LATE--?



MAMA EVERETT--CAN WHAT HE SAYS BE RIGHT? ARE WE ALL JUST--TROUBLEMAKERS?

THAT'S NOT THE WAY I MEANT IT BEFORE, RACHEL-- BUT MAYBE--?

A REAL LOAD OF BULL MUM, LANTERN?

I--DON'T KNOW, HE EVEN MAKES SENSE TO ME, THIS TIME AROUND.

WHAT? YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!

HOURMAN--SNAP OUT OF IT! WE'VE GOT TO SMASH THAT CREEP--OR AT LEAST GET EVERETT OUT OF THERE, BEFORE--

WHY SHOULD WE? WHAT'D HE AND HIS KIND EVER DO FOR ME--OR FOR AMERICA?

HE'S CASTING SOME KIND OF SPELL OVER THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM!

NOT SURE WHY I'M THE ONLY ONE IMMUNE THIS TIME--BUT I'M GETTING AN INKING.

GOT TO MOVE! ANOTHER FEW SECONDS AND 'REAL AMERICAN' WILL HAVE 'EM RIGHT WHERE HE WANTS 'EM!

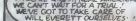
LET'S GO! WE'VE HEARD ENOUGH TALK! LET'S LYNCH THAT MURDERING--!

WHAT DO YOU SAY, ALL-STAR? ARE YOU WITH US?

YES, I-- I GUESS WE ARE!

THEN YOU MAY BE THE ONES TO LEAD--AND TO TIE THE MOOSE AROUND WALL EVERETT'S TREACHEROUS NECK!





--THE WILRUS SAID,
TO SPEAK OF MANY THINGS--
OF SHOES, AND SHIPS, AND SEALING-WAX,
OF CABBAGES AND KINGS--



THAT
NOISE!
WHO--?

IT'S JUST LITTLE OLD
CARROLL-- QUOTER,
ME!

-- OR WHY THE SEA IS BOILING HOT,
AND WHETHER PIGS HAVE WINGS!--



DON'T KNOW ABOUT PIGS,
ROB-- BUT I SURE KNOW ONE
MASKED SWINE WHO'S GOING
TO DO SOME FLYING WHEN
MY FIST CONNECTS WITH
HIS JAWBONE!

YOU--
FREE!?



THAT MOANING YOU HEAR IS THE
SOUND OF ALL-STAR'S AND MOB ALIKE--
COMING OUT OF THE SONIC TRANCE
YOU PUT 'EM UNDER!

YOU ARE STILL
CLOSE ENOUGH TO
HEAR ME, EVEN
OVER THAT NOISE!

THAT IS WHY YOU CAN NEVER DEFEAT ME! NEVER!

NUTS! SENT HIM REELING-- BUT THIS ISN'T THE WAY I WANT TO WIN--
NOT LIKE SOME MONSTER MADE OUT OF
METAL--

SORRY I CAN'T
HEAR YOU SO GOOD,
OLD BUDDY. THESE
METAL BAFFLES OVER
MY EARS, DON'T YOU
KNOW?



WOW

--BUT AS ONE MAN, FIGHTING AGAINST ANOTHER MAN WHO'S TRYING TO TAKE WHAT BELONGS TO HIM--

--HIS HOME HIS FREEDOM-- HIS LIFE!

WELL / IN GOD'S NAME-- GET 'EM OUT OF THERE / DON'T--

SO! YOU HAVE REVERTED TO FLESHLY FORM! THAT WAS YOUR FIRST MISTAKE, BLACK MAN--

--AND YOUR LAST!

WHEN / FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN FAD OFF-- IN AN UGLY PLACE! MEY- YOU THINK WILL NEEDS HELP?

ARRRGH!!

HE'S-- A WHOLE LOT STRONGER-- THAN ME'S GOT A RIGHT TO BE! GOT TO--

SEE THAT? HE'S STANDING UP TO REAL AMERICAN!

GUESS IT WAS TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR-- THAT EVERYBODY'D FEEL DIFFERENT WHEN THEY SNAPPED OUT OF IT.

SOK!

SOME FOLKS WERE BORN BIGOTS-- AND THAT'S HOW THEY'LL DIE!

WE'LL GIVE IT TO HIM-- WHEN HE ASKS FOR IT!

WHAT? DO YOU EXPECT? THEY'RE ALL ANIMALS, AIN'T THEY?

CAN'T DO MUCH ABOUT THAT--

IT CAN'T BE! THAT BLACK DOG HAS BEATEN REAL AMERICAN!

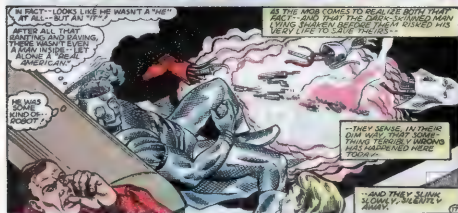
COME BACK HERE, YOU IDIOTS! IT'S NOT OVER YET!

--BUT I'LL BE DAMNNED IF I'M EVER GOING TO LET THEM INFECT ME WITH THEIR POISON AGAIN!

MEY, WHY SO QUIET? FELLA? CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?

SLAMM

T'S FOR ME!



OWNERS, IT SEEMS, HAVE ALREADY SLUNK.

SO... YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVEN'T DESERTED ME!

DON'T LET ANYBODY IN HERE WHILE I TRY TO SALVAGE WHAT I CAN FROM THIS MESS!

OKAY, ANKHOROR.

INSIDE THE DARK CELLAR, THE LEADER OF THE CRUMBLING PHANTOM EMPIRE FIDDLES WITH THE DIALS ON A STRANGELY FUTURISTIC DEVICE.

CALLING MONITOR! CALLING MONITOR! COME IN, MONITOR, FOR GOD'S SAKE...

MONITOR HERE, PROCEED

AND, IN A DIMENSION FAR, FAR AWAY, YET NEARER BY FAR THAN WILLOW RUN.

THAT ROBOT YOU SOLD ME WAS NO DAMN GOOD, MONITOR?...

THE PROPER TERM, MY FRIEND, IS "ANDROID," THOUGH I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T EXPECT ANYONE IN 1942 TO KNOW THAT.

DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT-- BUT I NEED A REPLACEMENT... FAST!

READ THE FINE PRINT, I GUARANTEED ONLY THAT THE ANDROID I PROCURED WOULD WORK, NOT THAT YOUR OWN INFANTILE PLAN WOULD SUCCEED.

IN FACT, NOW THAT MY READ-OUTS INDICATE BOTH ANDROID AND MIND-INFLUENCING DEVICE ARE DESTROYED, IT IS TIME FOR ME TO BREAK CONTACT. BEST OF LUCK TO YOU...!!

WAIT! YOU CAN'T--

THAT LOUSY-- EVEN THAT NEWFANGLED TELEVISION SET HE GAVE ME IS DOING A FADE-OUT!

FUNNY HOW THAT FANCY PHRASING OF YOURS KIND-OF GOES ON WHEN YOU GET IN A PINCH, ISN'T IT, EMPTY?

YOU!?

WHO ELSE WAS GONNA BE ABLE TO FOLLOW YOU SO FAST I ALMOST GOT HERE BEFORE YOU DID--

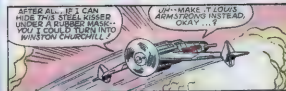
--LET ALONE BEFORE THESE TWO CRUMBS HAD A CHANCE TO PULL ANY TRIGGERS?







GOD, I HATE LEAVING HERE--WITH SO MUCH UNREST, SO MUCH RACIAL HATRED STILL UNSETTLED, BUT THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH THAT EVEN AN ALL-STAR SQUADRON CAN DO.



REVEALED AT LAST--AFTER 43 YEARS!
THE SECRET ORIGIN OF STARMAN!



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SPECIAL NOTE: It's "Changing-of-the-Guard" Time again, alas. Due to a combination of circumstances, Rick Hobert has decided he just plain didn't have time to continue doing breakdowns for ALL-STAR SQUADRON.

Fortunately for us, a few months back, when fill-in artist Rich Buckler had to forgo penciling the second half of the Captain Marvel two-parter, we got Arvell Jones (whom Rich had brought into the field, some years before) to take over, and were mightily pleased with the result. Pleased enough, in fact, to invite Arvell to pencil an "Origin of Starman" special issue, coming up next month.

Now, with Rick stepping down, we've asked Arvell to become the regular ALL-STAR layout-penciller (still with finishes by Bill Collins), and he's accepted. Matter of fact, Arvell—who got the news just a few days before his May 12 wedding—said it was one of the best wedding presents he could get. And here we thought we were doing ourselves a favor, bringing such an exciting, action-oriented artist back into the DC fold! Just goes to show.

We've got a couple of other artists lined up to do fill-ins, as well—including the legendary Wayne Boring, one of the very first (and finest) artists ever to draw Superman—but hopefully the Thomas-Jones-Collins topline will be gracing most ALL-STAR SQUADRON covers for a long, long time!

Meanwhile, a very special thank-you to Richard Howell for taking time off from a HAWKMAN mini-series he and Tony Isabella are doing, to finish off our "Phantom Empire" three-parter.

—Roy Thomas.

Dear Roy,

Well, you might get a few letters saying, "How could you do it? The Red Bee was my favorite Golden Age hero!" (I read a letter like that after the Whizzer was wiped, over in the confines of the Marvel Universe.) But at least the Bee got in a little action before he buzzed off to that big blue hive. (I loved, by the way, the Phantom Lady's reference to the Red Bee's inadequacies in the previous issue, but I think that maybe she doesn't have that much to gloat over herself since I would personally rather see Dr. Mid-Nite using her gimmicks any day, and even that avant-garde costume she has on doesn't change that. Maybe she should marry the Phantom Stranger?)

Looking over the four-page display of heroes in issue #31 (a nice treat, I

thought), I must say there remain a few latent "loz" characters seated there, waiting to be wasted. Not that they weren't a waste already.

Of course, a few of these heroes can simply retire (the Crimson Avenger looks particularly slated for this), or more directly, be embarrassed into inactivity. One wonders that the Red Bee wasn't self-aware enough to be embarrassed, but maybe he felt superior to Stripesy and this kept him going.

The Red Bee isn't a bad name for a hero, but we've already got the neatly redesigned Taramula (will he ever crawl back into the story?), and I am not ready for an Auxiliary Insect Legion, so this is all for the best.

Dale M. Houstman
3439 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Sorry we couldn't print even more of your long and entertaining letter, Dale...but rest assured, we enjoyed every paragraph of it.

—R T

Dear Roy and Co.,

Thank you for finally putting Hourman in the spotlight. Even with his problem of withdrawal side effects from his Miracle pills, he still proved why he's known as the Men of the Hour by battling Baron Blitzkrieg on survival instincts and a supreme effort of will.

ALL-STAR SQUADRON #35 had a lot of action, completing three different storylines (Belle and Company battling Tsunami, Hourman and the Freedom Fighters fighting the Baron, and the Spectre's struggle to save two Earths). Even though there was action cover-to-cover, the pacing of the story was smooth and uncluttered.

The Red Bee may not have been a powerhouse as a hero, or even well known, but he made the ultimate sacrifice and proved that he's as big a hero as Superman or Batman by dying in battle to save his teammates.

Jay Elliott Jr.
Box 19381
Las Vegas, NV 89132

Nor will he be forgotten, Jay, as future issues will show. And as the current Detroit episode has indicated, Hourman will be around for a time, as well. After all, once he traded in his Miracle pills for a ray machine (ADVENTURE COMICS #71, 1942), he continued on as a crimefighter in the original comics for another year, winding up his first career

in ADVENTURE #83, with a cover date of February 1943. Even if we assume he went out of business—for reasons yet to be revealed—in late 1942, at the present rate of time-advancement in ALL-STAR SQUADRON, that'll keep him around for another half dozen years or so. And a lot can happen in that time, right? Like maybe even a real live origin!

—R T

Dear Roy,

Well, I hope you're satisfied in only 35 issues of one comic (ALL-STAR SQUADRON), you have managed to feature no less than 71 Earth-Two super-heroes and -heroines (not including the Blackhawks, which you kinds showed)! What is this situation to your readership?

- (A) Confusing.
- (B) Too much to comprehend
- (C) Mildly intriguing
- ✗ (D) The best thing going in comics today!

Well...you see my choice. Earth-Two, heroes have always been the best part of DC, and I've been reading since 1963. Keep the Spectre, Dr. Fate, Infinity, Inc., and the JSA going forever! I love "retroactive continuity" and can't wait for the JUSTICE SOCIETY mini-series and the HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE, which should explain even more about Earth-Two and its past.

David Newman
P.O. Box 2974
McAllen, TX 78502

Boy, have you got some surprises in store, David! But—only 71 or so heroes shown in ALL-STAR SQUADRON so far? I've gotta do some more research! (Course, since you wrote that letter, three members of the Marvel Family have briefly trilled to Earth-Two, as well, and we did show Blackhawk himself in one panel, at least—and did the Earth-Two Aquaman count, since he was shown only when Liberty Belle mentioned him? Ah, the questions...)

—R T



MEANWHILE...

Honest! I really did intend to write this *Meanwhile...* myself! I've just returned from the 1984 convention trail and I'd planned to use this space to share some of our convention experiences with you, but as I was sorting out my thoughts (and notes), Sal Amendola popped his head in my door and started to tell me of his experiences on a five-city seminar tour. No sense in my repeating what he told me... I'll let him tell you himself while I go back to sorting my thoughts (and notes) for this nifty *Meanwhile...* column I'm writing



Last year, DC Comics went around the U.S. and Canada in hopes of recognizing potential creative talents (writers, artists, letterers, and colorists) who would take DC in particular and the comic book industry in general into the next two or three decades. We won't go into the details of the difficulties prior to, during, and subsequent to "The Search"; needless to say, they were difficult times—full of heartbreaks, angers, frustrations... We always fell back on Dick Giordano's advice that in trying times we should look back in three-month segments. If improvements were perceptible, it would be safe to continue our efforts in the knowledge that success would almost certainly be our end result.

As we look back on the past year and a half talent search, the successes are more than merely "perceptible": Stan Woch, Steve Lightle, Mindy Newell; the return to more active participation at DC of such great, proven talent as Gray Morrow and Wayne Boring; our proud achievement, issue #400 of *SUPERMAN*, heralding the 45th anniversary of our "father figure" superhero. This extra special book featured many of the greatest "expatriate" creators in the comic book and related cartoon-illustration fields. Our eternal gratitude to editor Julie Schwartz for making us an

integral part of this magnificent project

We've had our glorious failures as well, one of the bitterest of which was our loss to our major competitor of one or two of our most promising "discoveries." Our hurt is greatly eased by the knowledge that this young person-or-two will contribute much-needed improvement to their line of books. (You're welcome, Jim.)

This year we went back on the road, but not to focus on a search for talent. Officially, in theory, we'd found everyone we'll need for the foreseeable future. This trip, we went out to re-establish contact with all of the people on our six-page list of young men and women outside the New York City region who have little or no access to our offices and the obvious advantages which that access affords. We wanted very much to counter the disadvantages of geographical distance from our offices. We wanted all of these young writers, artists, and artisans to know that we didn't forget or abandon them; that the promise of more productive days for both of us is here—now.

Few of these young people have been to our offices. Fewer are likely to be here in the near future... so, in effect, we brought the offices (and the engraving plant) to them.

We conducted the DC Seminar. The participants were shown examples of the comic book creative and business process from the germs of ideas and their development to distribution. We shared intimate details of the business. We gossiped. As best as was humanly possible, all the truths were imparted. We reinforced the true glories of comics and created no illusions as to the gremlins at every level and in every aspect of the business. As difficult as it may be to believe, we even confessed to some of our own shortcomings.

On the last day or two of the seminars, we looked over the works of each of the participants and told them what they did right and why it was right, and what they did wrong and how to work toward improvements.

Success and productivity were well beyond expectations. Assignments are now being prepared for many of our

seminar individuals. It shouldn't be too much longer before many of the remaining persons find work in their mailboxes. We know that it still won't come soon enough or consistently enough for anyone—even for us; but it will be the start that we all need. In time, success will come to all who can persevere.

None of this is to say that there weren't any problems, but they weren't nearly as bad as had been prepared for. Ironically, the worse problems cropped up in Ottawa, where we had the best time of all (new talent writer Mindy Newell, old pro artist Gray Morrow, and Talent Coordinator Sal Amendola). What a beautiful city is Ottawa! Thanks to Sandi, Pat and Holly McLaughlin, Roger Casselman, Janet Hetherington, Veronica Fehli, and Mandy Slater. (Especially to Sandi and to Roger.) Without them, we wouldn't have made it over the rough spots.

No one anywhere was more successfully helpful before, during, and after the seminars than Paul McSpadden of the Dallas Fantasy Fest. No gesture would be sufficient to show him our appreciation.

San Diego reunited us with the greatest number of our old friends: Jack Arata, Barbara Randall, Dennis Yee (who wrote a *SUPERMAN* story to be penciled by Dick Giordano and is in the middle of a 23 page story for *NEW TALENT SHOWCASE* script and penciling), Deryl Skelton, and Kurt Mauser; along with some new friends: Mark Lewis, Norm Brytogle, and Jim Morris. Mary and Tom Bierbaum, the epitome of the tall, blond, lean California couple, chose to take part of the Chicago seminar. Szabolcs Sztaszky (call him "Subby") and Heather Kilgour of Canada also decided on Chicago. Our largest turnout was at Chicago (actually, Rosemont, Desplains). There isn't enough type in the matrix to list everyone, but we do want to thank Rich Steas for bringing us the T-shirt with the names of we who attended the Encounter 7 convention in Kansas City.

All of our Dallas talent were "local boys," thus enabling their wives to join with them and Mike Barr and Sal Amendola at the seminar "graduation dinner." It afforded us the opportunity for more than just shop talk.

Finally, we want to thank Julie Schwartz for giving us about an hour of his time and a piece of his over 40 years of experience at our Chicago seminar.

Thank you all for making the summer of 1984 so memorable.

Sal Amendola



GOLDEN AGE GALLERY



The names Joe Staton and Bob Layton are certainly not unknown to DC readers! From ALL-STAR COMICS #66-71, 1977-78, they were the talented stalwarts who illustrated the revived Justice Society in its own series. When Bob moved on to Marvel and his noteworthy work there, Joe soon took over full art chores till the end of the series; since then, he's done many other DC strips and E-Man for First Comics. In 1977, Joe and Bob drew the accompanying Justice Society vs. Hitler lilo for our own house fanzine, THE AMAZING WORLD OF DC COMICS #16. We've always felt it deserved a wider audience, so here it is—!



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